



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **District Man Pleads Guilty to Burglary, Weapons Charges - Stole Computer, Then Posted His Picture on Victim's Facebook Page -**

WASHINGTON - Rodney Knight Jr., 19, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty today to a charge of second-degree burglary stemming from a break-in that took place in December 2010, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. After the burglary, Knight taunted his victims with a photograph he displayed on their own hijacked Facebook page.

In an unrelated matter, Knight also pled guilty today to a charge of carrying a pistol without a license. He entered both guilty pleas before the Honorable Judge Anthony C. Epstein in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Under the Court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, the burglary charge carries a recommended penalty of one to three years in prison. The weapons charge is punishable by up to five years of incarceration. The judge scheduled sentencing for May 4, 2011.

According to a factual proffer submitted to the Court, on December 10, 2010, Knight broke into a home in Northwest Washington. He took a number of items, including two laptop computers, a winter coat and about \$400 in cash.

Shortly after burglarizing the house, Knight used one of the stolen computers to photograph himself wearing the stolen coat and displaying the stolen currency. He then used the stolen computer to post this photograph of himself on one of the victims' Facebook pages.

The weapons charge stemmed from an incident on January 2, 2011. According to the factual proffer, police saw Knight in the rear alley of the 2800 block of Dunbar Street SE. When Knight noticed the police, he clutched his waistband and began running. Police chased him and saw Knight toss a gun to the ground. The weapon, a pistol, was loaded with one round in the chamber and one in the magazine. Knight later admitted that he was carrying the weapon in a coat pocket. He has been in custody since his arrest in that case.

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In announcing the guilty pleas, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Kimberley Metivier, who tirelessly investigated the burglary. He further acknowledged the outstanding efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean M. Lewis, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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